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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)
 SUBJECT Work on Volkspolizei Guns at
 Straussberg Gun Repair Shop

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NO. OF PAGES 1

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1. The Straussberg gun repair shop is engaged mainly in repairing and overhauling guns which have been turned over to the Volkspolizei by the Soviet Army. They are chiefly model 42 antitank guns, 40 mm, and model 42 field guns, 76.2 mm. To all appearances, the model 42 field gun is no longer being used by the Soviet Army. In the period from December 1953 to the end of January 1954, sixteen of these guns were overhauled. The guns are still at Straussberg. The guns came from the Soviet garrison at Ludwigslust.
2. The workers at Straussberg are mainly Volkspolizei who have learned the mechanic's trade. There are special theoretical courses at Straussberg which make further advancement possible.
3. The head of the shop is a Volkspolizei Meister who worked at the gunsmith's trade in a Soviet factory during the war, while a prisoner of the Russians. He returned to the East Zone in 1952. According to his story, he had been working in the Soviet Union at the time of his release on a 57 mm gun that was aimed mechanically and controlled remotely. The gun was supposed to have been built after plans obtained from a works in Bofors. He told this because he was angered that the Soviets were turning over nothing but old guns to the Volkspolizei.

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